



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

January 9, 2009

Preparedness and Planning

CDC Offers Resources to Winter Storm Victims

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) responded to the effects of the December 2008 winter storm power outages in the Northeast. The CDC is committed to helping those impacted by the winter storms and their families recover and, therefore, want to make sure the most current information is available to help protect those who have been impacted. [This website](#) provides links to information related to power outages that may be particularly helpful to the affected communities you serve. Additional language translations are also available.

Simplified Access to Information about Disaster Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the launch of the first phase of a new, easy-to-use website that consolidates information about forms of disaster assistance. This website -- [Disaster-Assistance.gov](#) -- will improve and simplify access to information about disaster assistance by creating a central, online location for all forms of federal disaster aid. Following a presidentially declared disaster, individuals in need of assistance will now be able to go to this website to register for assistance with FEMA and other federal agencies. At launch, users can: apply for FEMA assistance and U.S. Small Business Administration loans through a single online application, check the status of their online application(s), choose to have their Social Security benefits redirected to a new address, and have access to their federal student loan account information. The website will also provide applicants with links to other forms of assistance and additional aid information.

Special Needs Registries – an effective tool or false promise?

[This paper](#) addresses the use of registries in emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities and activity limitations. It examines the problems, challenges, and key elements of registries and offers cautions and research recommendations. The author hopes the art and science, and pros and cons of operating registries will continue to evolve and carefully and systematically be evaluated.

Special Needs Populations Impact Assessment

The goal of [this assessment](#), conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, identified distinct areas in which communities impacted by Hurricane Ike will need to build capacity to ensure that special needs populations are fully included within long-term recovery. These areas of community capacity include: advocacy and case management, housing, financial security/employment, health and wellness, transportation, individual supports, child and family supports, education, and community access.

News

***Salmonella* Outbreak**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with public health officials in many states, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an ongoing multistate outbreak of human infections due to *Salmonella* serotype Typhimurium. Visit the [CDC website](#) for further information.

Michigan Poster Receives National Recognition as Promising Practice

The Center for Infectious Disease and Research Policy (CIDRAP) recently added one of Michigan's contagious illness posters to its pandemic promising practices. This brief, informational poster describes hand and cough hygiene and surface precautions that transportation departments can take against the spread of infectious disease. See [page 3](#) for more information.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
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Launch of “SNAPS: Snap Shots of State Population Data”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is pleased to announce the public launch of [SNAPS](#), a free service to the public that provides local-level community profile information nationwide. It can be browsed by county and state and searched by zip code. SNAPS serves as a valuable tool when responding to public health emergency events at the state, tribal, and local levels. It provides a “snap shot” of key variables for consideration in guiding and tailoring health education and communication efforts to ensure diverse audiences receive critical public health messages that are accessible, understandable, and timely.

Abstraction Form for Domestic Bombing Events

Data capture regarding the diagnosis and treatment of injuries is important to quantify the true impact of a disaster. This [one-page form](#) allows public health personnel, at the city-, county-, state-, or federal-level, to quickly extract basic medical information from hospital and emergency medical services’ records in order to advise officials as to the immediate impact of the event and the potential need for special resources (e.g., blood products, types of medical personnel, etc.).

BioThrax License Approved

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has [approved](#) Emergent BioSolutions Inc’s supplemental Biologics License Application for Anthrax Vaccine Adsorbed (BioThrax®), the only FDA-licensed vaccine to prevent disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*. The revised package insert to include a change in schedule to 0-, 4-weeks, and 6-, 12-, and 18-months, and a change in route of administration from subcutaneous to intramuscular.

U.S. Fatality Map

Researchers from the University of South Carolina have produced a map of natural hazard mortality in the United States. [The map](#) gives a county-level representation of the likelihood of dying as the result of natural events such as floods, earthquakes or extreme weather. Reserachers hope that this work will enable emergency management practitioners to examine hazard deaths through a geographic lens. Using this tool to identify areas with higher than average hazard deaths can justify allocation of resources to these areas with the goal of reducing loss of life.

WISER 4.2 Available

WISER is a system designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice. The latest version of the software has many new features: a substance’s protective distance data can now be overlaid on an interactive map, signs/symptoms imagery has been added to biological agents, several new substances have been added, and many other enhancements. [WISER 4.2](#) can be downloaded to a portable device, or accessed from the web version.

Surveillance

Personal Protective Equipment and Risk for Avian Influenza (H7N3)

A retrospective cohort study published in the *Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases* studied personal protective equipment (PPE) use and avian influenza exposure. The researchers found that the incomplete use of PPE resulted in conjunctivitis and influenza-like symptoms in poultry workers during an avian influenza H7N3 outbreak in United Kingdom. They concluded that strict use of PPE should be enforced during avian influenza outbreaks.

Enhanced Hygiene Measures and Norovirus Transmission

A study in the *Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases* focused on how standard hygiene during an outbreak affected the transmission of norovirus. The researchers reviewed records from seven camps in the Netherlands during 2004 and found that there was an 85% reduction in norovirus reproduction numbers when standard hygiene practices were being used. The [full report](#) is available online.

Communications

Pitfalls of Health Care Journalism

An [article](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine* describes how journalism improperly reports medical news and what can be done to improve. The author found that most current news segments are too short to fully explain the context of medical issues. The incompleteness of medical information then promotes in improper conveyance by the public.

Online Social Services Directory

The Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (a not-for-profit provider of behavioral health services in southern Arizona) has just launched a module on their website that should be of significant benefit to anyone who is trying to find information about social services in any states. The [Michigan page of the website](#) contains information on mental health authorities, 211, Medicaid, homeless, resources for people with disabilities, and many others.

Pandemic Planning

Michigan Poster Receives National Recognition

The Center for Infectious Disease and Research Policy (CIDRAP) recently added one of [Michigan's contagious illness posters](#) to its pandemic promising practices. This brief, informational poster describes hand and cough hygiene and surface precautions that transportation departments can take against the spread of infectious disease. The poster is intended to improve awareness about influenza among transportation department employees, therefore ensuring that employees are well versed in respiratory illness prevention prior to a pandemic.



Other News

New Risk Assessment Publication

A new publication from the National Academies, "Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment", is a complement to the 1983 "Risk Assessment in the Federal Government", also known as the Red Book. This new publication embeds the concepts of risk assessment within a broader framework of risk-based decision-making. This book can be [read online](#) for free.

Training and Education

Isolation and Quarantine Training

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has developed a web-based version of the Legal Nuts and Bolts of Isolation and Quarantine Training Program, to complement the two-part classroom version that has been offered since 2004. This program aims to familiarize participants with the concepts of isolation and quarantine and their historical and modern use in disease control and prevention. Please see the [course flyer](#) for more information.

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 13, 2009 1:00pm	<u>Biosafety: Assessing the Risk</u> Biosafety is a concern in every laboratory environment where infectious microorganisms are a potential hazard. Whether a research, diagnostic, teaching, or a large production laboratory, each presents a unique environment that poses a risk of exposure to infectious agents. The risk assessment formalizes the process of observation so that actions in the work environment are carefully examined to detect potential hazards that may cause harm to staff during the course of their work.	Teleconference
Jan. 14, 2009 12:00pm	<u>Fundamentals of Medical Planning</u> <u>This workshop</u> will teach aspects of crisis action medical planning to help your organization enhance its preparedness and risk management posture. This workshop will help you create, or improve, organic medical plans to improve your defenses against emergency events, whether they be from terrorism, the next series of catastrophic weather events, or large-scale industrial accidents.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Jan. 21, 2009 12:00pm	<u>Infection Control Updates for Nurses</u> This program will focus on <i>Clostridium difficile</i> . This bacterium that causes a number of symptoms, which can range from diarrhea to a life-threatening inflammation of the colon. <i>C. difficile</i> illnesses usually affect older adults in hospitals or in longterm care facilities. Understanding what <i>Clostridium difficile</i> is, the problems it causes and the treatments available can go a long way in stopping the spread of the infection. Please visit the Alabama Department of Public Health website for more information, including registration details.	live webcast (334) 206-5618
Jan. 22, 2009	<u>National Association for EMS Physicians Annual Meeting</u> Please visit the NAEMSP website for full details on the annual meeting including registration brochure, online meeting registration, exhibitor prospectus, preconference workshop information, accepted abstracts listing, and other information.	Jacksonville, FL



Photo by Linda Norris

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan 27, 2009	Public Health Leadership to Improve the Health of Young People Adolescents and children are generally considered the healthiest members of society, and are thus often invisible to the public health system. What are the pressing challenges for public health leaders? What can public health leadership offer? This symposium will explore the issue of public health leadership as it applies to the complexity of youth health. The event will provide concrete tools and strategies to public health officials and emerging leaders, and motivate them to face the challenges of improving the health of young people. This symposia is free and open to the public.	University of Michigan 911 North University Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Jan. 27, 2009 1:00pm	Laboratories Exempted from Select Agent Registration Laboratories who are exempt from select agent registration may encounter select agents and toxins from clinical or diagnostic specimens and proficiency testing samples. In addition to reporting the identification and disposition of a select agent or toxin to CDC or APHIS, laboratories are required to comply with requirements for Theft, Loss, and Release. This teleconference will explain the requirements when a select agent or toxin is identified in a laboratory that does not have a Select Agent Certificate of Registration and define what is considered a release of a select agent or toxin.	teleconference
Jan. 29, 2009 1:00pm	Mass Antibiotic Dispensing Broadcast Many public health planners are unsure how to reach out to and involve AI/AN communities in their mass antibiotic dispensing plans and drills. This broadcast will assist state and local Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) planners in determining how to effectively engage their neighboring tribal governments and communities.	Webcast
Jan. 30, 2009	Basic Disaster Life Support This five-hour course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. For more information, including registration information, please see the informational flyer .	RESA Auditorium - 5454 Venoy Road - Wayne, MI 48184
Jan. 31, 2009	38th Critical Care Congress This year's Congress offers oral presentations on the following topics: basic sepsis science, basic science, cardiology/CPR, epidemiology, neurology, sepsis, therapeutics, and others. Please visit the Society for Critical Care Medicine website for more information.	Nashville, TN
Feb. 1, 2009	Advanced PIO for Health and Hospital Emergencies Course The four-day APIO course combines lectures, facilitated discussion, activities, and exercises, allowing participants to apply knowledge and skill to manage a JIC in an emergency situation. This is accomplished with lectures in risk and crisis information, legal issues, policies, interpersonal skills, and emergency information systems. Activities such as the writing exercise and the news conference exercise allow the PIO to practice skill sets required to conduct the practical exercise on the final day. Course code CDP 009-06. See the Center for Domestic Preparedness website for training application and registration information.	Noble Training Center Anniston, AL

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 3, 2009	Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs This workshop will examine existing and/or needed standards for emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and special needs. This event will work to identify what standards currently exist and in what areas new standards need to be developed, followed by actionable recommendations for the timely development of standards in the identified needs areas. Please contact Matt Deane by email at mdeane@ansi.org for more information.	Kellogg Conference Hotel - Washington, DC
Feb. 3, 2009	Managing the Threat of Suicide Bombers and IEDs The FBI and DHS are warning state and local partners to be on the alert for suicide bombers using large vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (LVBIED) and man-portable/hand-carried IEDs. This course is designed for advanced levels of government and security personnel to provide you with relevant information about the motivation, training, equipment, techniques and operational methods used by terrorist bombers, with particular attention on the suicide bomber. In addition, you'll learn about other terrorism counter-measures, including how to prepare an effective bomb threat and bombing response plan.	Arlington, VA
Feb. 5, 2009	Emergency Preparedness for Facilities This course provides you with strategic knowledge and tactical resources to prepare for, and recover from, any emergency or disaster. The events following the devastating impact of the "9-11" terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina make it clear that government and private agencies at the local, state and federal levels are not collectively as ready as they could be to effectively prepare, mitigate, response and recover from a crisis of significant proportion - whether it's a man-made or natural disaster.	Arlington, VA
Feb. 23, 2009	Mass Casualty Preparedness & Response Forum At this forum participants will engage together in addressing a capability-specific priority of the Goal to Strengthen Medical Surge and Mass Prophylaxis Capabilities. The Forum presents an opportunity for leaders, decision makers and planners of business, government and civil society (non-profits, NGOs, etc.) to address complex issues surrounding mass casualty events and response, and create an ongoing dialogue of ideas that will evolve into solutions that can be applied in an all hazards environment.	Washington, DC



Photo by Tracey Warner

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 24, 2009	All-Hazards Regional Evacuation Plans This workshop will walk participants through the regional planning process. Using proven planning methodologies, the workshop guides participants in creating sound strategies for a variety of catastrophes, both natural and man-made. This best-practice approach to planning provides emergency managers and key officials with detailed data and tools that promote effective decision-making during a catastrophic event.	Arlington, VA
Feb. 28, 2009	2009 MDCH-OPHP Volunteer Conference Michigan will offer its first conference dedicated to support public health and healthcare emergency response efforts for volunteers registered with the MI Volunteer Registry and other volunteer organizations. This Saturday conference is free to attendees, open to all disciplines, and supported by the Department of Health and Human Services's emergency preparedness cooperative agreements. For more information, including registration details, please visit the MI-TRAIN website , and search for course ID 1014902.	Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center East Lansing, MI
Mar. 25, 2009	Basic PIO Workshop This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management. Visit the Michigan State Police website for further details and registration information.	Oakland County
Mar. 28, 2009	ACMT 7th Annual Spring Course The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is offering its 7th Annual Spring Course which will deliver cutting edge concepts relative to neurotoxic mechanisms, controversies, and etiologies for Parkinsonism, cognitive disorders, neuropathy and autism; case-based presentations on pesticide, mercury and lead toxicity; and the practical use and interpretation of neuropsychological testing, EMG, and nerve conduction studies. ACMT member registration fee is \$525. See the ACMT website for further details, including registration information.	San Juan, Puerto Rico



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This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.